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TELEGRAM INFORMATION REPORT TELEGRAM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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CLASSIFICATION - DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

S. Vietnam

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COUNTRY: SOUTH VIETNAM | REPORT NO.: TDCS DB-3/655,605

SUBJECT: MAJOR GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH COMMENTS ON THE CURRENT SITUATION AND ON THE NEED FOR A CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM | DATE DISTR.: 18 JULY 1963 | PRECEDENCE: ROUTINE

DATE OF INFO: 13-16 JULY 1963 | COMMENTS: THIS IS THE REFERENCES LINE WHICH HAD 82003

PLACE & DATE ACQ.: VIETNAM, SAIGON (17 JULY 1963) IN HIS LIAISON WITH REGTSD TO THE

APPRaisal: SEE BELOW | FIELD REPORT NO.: FVS-9322

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: AN AMERICAN OBSERVER (B); FROM A UNITED STATES ARMY FIELD-GRADE OFFICER; FROM GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH.

APPR: GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH PROBABLY HOLDS THESE VIEWS AND MADE THESE STATEMENTS. HE IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN DISGRUNTLED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM SINCE 1960, AND EVEN THOUGH HE HAS NOT SO EXPRESSED HIMSELF PREVIOUSLY, SOURCE (SEE PARA. 2.B).

1. SUMMARY. ON 16 JULY 1963 MAJOR GENERAL DUONG VAN MINH, WHO WAS THE CAO DVI MEME AND CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE BADDH121, THE MILITARY ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT DIEM, CRITICIZED THE PRESIDENT, SAID HE WAS A DUMB LORD WHO ONLY THOUGHT OF HIS OWN INTERESTS, THAT HE HAD BEEN A LITTLE BIT OF A FOOL, THAT HE LACKED THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE, AND ADVOCATED A CHANGE IN THE REGIME, BUT ASSERTED THAT NGO DINH NHU COULD NOT TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT.

2. GENERAL MINH MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

HE ALSO SAID THAT BRIGADIER GENERAL DO CAO TRI WOULD REMAIN IN COMMAND OF THE 1ST DIVISION.

3. GENERAL MINH MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

HE SAID THAT HE HAD CHANGED CONSIDERABLY BECOMING CONVINCED THAT HE WAS

A. PRESIDENT DIEM HAS CHANGED SO COMPLETELY THAT IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO REASON WITH HIM. IN THE EARLY DAYS HE HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE AND WAS VERY POPULAR THROUGHOUT SOUTH VIETNAM. HE HAD TO FIGHT WITH THE GOVERNMENT, THEN HE BEGAN

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STATE/INR	DIA	ARMY/ACSI	NAVY	AIR	JCS	SECDEF	NSA	NIS	AID	USIA	OGI	ONE	ODR	DRR	DRB	DRD	DRF
STATE/DIR																	

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CIA/HQ/1964 - DR226194/14/1964

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IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER AT THAT TIME TO GAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE PEASANTS FOR THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS OF THE GOVERNMENT. THEN HE BEGAN SCREENING HIMSELF IN AND BY 1959 HE HAD LOST COMPLETE TOUCH WITH THE PEOPLE. THAT MAY HAVE BEEN THE TIME TO HAVE CHANGED THE GOVERNMENT.

AFTER 1960 DIEM CHANGED COMPLETELY, BECOMING CONVINCED THAT HE WAS OPERATING UNDER A MANDATE FROM HEAVEN. THIS WAS APPARENT IN HIS REMARKS ON 7 JULY WHEN HE SAID THAT THE COUNTRY WAS GUIDED BY "INTUITIVE WISDOM."

THE BEGINNING 1961 HE TALKED WITH MINH WHO TOLD HIM LIKE THIS: "B. THE BUDDHIST ISSUE IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF DIEM'S IRRATIONAL ATTITUDE. HE FORGOT THE PROBLEMS OF THE LEADERSHIP AND FORGOT TO CHANGE HIS ATTITUDE. DIEM TOLD MINH ON 13 JULY THAT THE BINH XUYEN, THE HOA

HAO, AND THE CAO DAT WERE ALL STRONGER THAN THE BUDDHISTS. THEY

ON 18 JULY 1963 MINH TALKED WITH GENERAL DONG ANH. HE HAD REGULAR ARMED TROOPS BUT THE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL UNABLE TO DEFEAT THEM, SO WHY CANNOT THE GOVERNMENT ALSO DEFEAT THE MONKS,

WHO HAVE NEITHER ARMS NOR MILITARY ORGANIZATION? MINH WAS UNABLE

TO CONVINCE THE PRESIDENT THAT THE SITUATIONS WERE NOT THE SAME

BECAUSE OF THE RIGID STAND DIEM HAS TAKEN WITH REGARD TO THE

BUDDHISTS. (SOURCE COMMENT. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME MINH HAS MADE

SUCH STRONG STATEMENTS AGAINST DIEM.)

THE BUDDHIST PROBLEM IS FAR FROM SETTLED. IT IS BECOMING

WORSE AND UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT CHANGES ITS POLICY THERE WILL BE

ADDITIONAL BUDDHIST SELF-SIMMOLATIONS. (SOURCE COMMENT. THIS IS BEING OVER

D. THERE MUST BE A CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT. SOUTH VIETNAM

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IS LIKE A YOUNG TREE; IT HAS FIRM ROOTS AND IS GROWING BUT IT MUST HAVE A PROPER ATMOSPHERE SO THAT ITS LEAVES, I.E., THE PEOPLE, CAN BREATHE. THIS IS SLACKING IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

E. NGO DINH NHU CAN NEVER TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT; (SHOULD HE SUCCEED, IT WOULD PROVE THAT THE VIET CONG (VC) ARE RIGHT IN CLAIMING THAT THE VC ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO REALLY FIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE.) (SOURCE: COMMENT BY MAJOR GENERAL TRAN VAN DON, COMMANDING 3RD GENERAL OF THE ARMY, AND BRIGADIER GENERAL LE VAN KIM, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, (ARE MINH'S CLOSE FRIENDS!) (A ACTA ALBINO) IN 1971, PRESIDENT NGUYEN NGOC THO TOLD MINH ON 15 JULY THAT IT WAS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NHU BUDDHISTS AND THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THE SELF-PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN KEY AVI INDIVIDUALS, BIRTH THEENHUS AND ARCHBISHOP NGO DINH THUOC, HAD TO BECOME INVOLVED. THO HAS BEEN WANTING TO RESIGN BUT WAS NOT EVEN PERMITTED TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF RESIGNATION; HE STILL INTENDS TO GO THROUGH WITH IT, HOWEVER. (FIELD COMMENT OCEVS-9243, TDCS-3/552,503,

H.) REPORTED THAT DILEM HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT THO'S WRITTEN RESIGNATION, ASUBMITTED 20 JULY. FVS-9256, TDCS-3/552,565, REPORTED THO'S STATEMENT THAT HE WANTED TO RESIGN BUT WAS UNCERTAIN AS TO THE TIMING.) 12. THE MINING OF THE M48 MOUNTAIN LINE IS NOT SIGNIFICANT.

G. IF THE MILITARY PRESSURE AGAINST THE VC CAN BE CONTINUED

AT THE PRESENT RATE FOR A YEAR, THE ARMY CAN DISRUPT THE VC ARMED

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3. IN THE MEANTIME, THE VC WILL TRY TO BE CONTINUED
INSURGENTS. THE WINNING OF THE WAR AGAINST THE VC IS NOT SIMPLY A
MILITARY PROBLEM, HOWEVER, BUT ONE THAT REQUIRES THE SUPPORT OF THE
THE PEOPLE, AND THIS IS SLACKING.

4. NO TROUBLE IS ANTICIPATED FROM THE VC ON THE 20 JULY 1973
ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE GENEVA ACCORDS, BUT THE STUDENTS
MIGHT CAUSE TROUBLE BECAUSE OF THE SUICIDE OF OPPOSITIONIST NGUYEN
TUONG TAM, OF AND WHO HAS BEEN APPPOINTED SECRETARY OF THE HCM COMMISSION
AND CHIEF OF STAFF. BRIGADIER GENERAL DO CAO TRI WILL REMAIN IN COMMAND OF THE
1ST INFANTRY DIVISION FOR THE TIME BEING, AND BRIGADIER GENERAL LE VAN
NGHIEM WILL REMAIN IN COMMAND OF 4 CORPS, WHICH PLACES NGHIEM IN AN
IMPOSSIBLE POSITION AS THE TWO MEN DO NOT GET ALONG WELL WITH EACH
OTHER. (CTR'S PROMOTION WAS DESERVED BECAUSE HE IS A VERY STRONG
FIGHTER. (FIELD COMMENT. FVS-9302, TDCSDB-3/655-512,) REPORTED NHU'S
STATEMENT (THAT CTR HAD BEEN PROMOTED AND NAMED COMMANDER OF 4 CORPS.
FVS-9267, (TDCSDB-3/655-485,) REPORTED NGHIEM'S STATEMENT OF HIS DESIRE
TO RESIGN FROM THE ARMY. (HE THAT THE ARMY COULD (AC) VBE BICHU IN

5. FIELD DISSEM: STATE (AMBASSADOR NOLTING), USMACV (GENERAL
HARKINS ONLY), CINCPAC/PACFLT/ARPAC/PACAF.

6. HAVE A GOOD VACATION! I HOPE YOU ENJOY THE SEASIDE CITY
12. LIKE A LONG TIME. I HAVE NEVER BEEN WHO IS COMING BUT IT WILL

END OF MESSAGE

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